

In the Claims:

All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged.

1. (Cancel) A method for storing critical data on a hard drive, comprising:
identifying critical data, the critical data likely to be requested upon the occurrence of a critical event;
storing critical data in a FLASH memory on the hard drive;
detecting the occurrence of a critical event; and
retrieving the critical data from the FLASH memory
2. (Cancel) The method of claim 1 wherein said storing critical data includes:
compressing the critical data; and
storing the compressed critical data in the FLASH memory on the hard drive.
3. (Cancel) The method of claim 1 wherein the critical event is power-on of the drive.
4. (Cancel) The method of claim 3 wherein the critical data is data associated with host boot-up.
5. (Cancel) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
loading the critical data into cache;
changing the value of the critical data in cache; and
changing the value of the critical data stored in the FLASH memory to correspond to the critical data stored in cache.
6. (Cancel) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing the critical data retrieved from the FLASH to a host device.
7. (Cancel) The method of claim 1 wherein the FLASH memory includes hard drive code.
8. (Cancel) The method of claim 1 wherein the FLASH memory includes a first FLASH memory and a second FLASH memory, the first FLASH memory containing hard drive code, the second FLASH memory containing critical data and no hard drive code.

9. (Cancel) A method for configuring an electronic device, comprising:
providing a printed circuit board, the printed circuit board including a plurality of FLASH ports,
each of the plurality of FLASH ports adapted to communicatively receive a FLASH integrated circuit; and
providing a processor communicatively coupled to the printed circuit board, the processor
configured to:
detect if more than one of the plurality of FLASH ports is connected to a FLASH
integrated circuit; and
for a plurality of detected FLASH integrated circuits, load at least one FLASH integrated
circuit with critical data.
10. (Cancel) The method of claim 9 wherein each of the plurality of FLASH integrated circuits receives
common data lines, a common clock, and a separate enable signal.
11. (Cancel) The method of claim 9 wherein the critical data is compressed.
12. (Original) A method for storing critical data on a hard drive, comprising:
detecting a low power state event;
retrieving a critical data from the DRAM;
storing the critical data in a FLASH memory on the hard drive; and
powering down the DRAM.
13. (Original) The method of 12, wherein storing the critical data further includes:
storing the critical data in FLASH memory; and
entering write data into a log, the write data indicating that critical data was read from the DRAM
and written to the FLASH memory.
14. (Original)The method of claim 13 further including:
transitioning the hard drive to a low power state.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including:
transitioning the hard drive to a power off state.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including:

identifying the critical data, the critical data stored on DRAM in the hard drive.